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FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE SET OF MULTILATERALLY AGREED EQUITABLE PRINCIPLES AND RULES FOR THE CONTROL OF RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES
Geneva, 25-29 September 2000
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

DECLARATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES ANTIMONOPOLY AUTHORITIES

At the request of the Government of the Russian Federation, the attached text of the Declaration of the antimonopoly authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States, adopted by the Inter-State Council for Antimonopoly Policy of the Commonwealth of Independent States at its eleventh session on 12 July 2000, is made available to the Review Conference.

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Declaration of the antimonopoly authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States for the Fourth United Nations Review Conference on Restrictive Business Practices

Kiev, 11-12 June 2000

The participants at the eleventh session of the Inter-State Council for Antimonopoly Policy of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, held on 11 and 12 July 2000 in Kiev, note the important role played by competition law and policy in the development of the market economies of the countries of the Commonwealth. The conduct of a State antimonopoly policy, designed to suppress monopolies and to foster competition, is conducive to the creation of a favourable entrepreneurial climate, the attracting of foreign investment and the free movement of goods, capital and services.

The cooperation in the sphere of competition pursued by the countries of the Commonwealth over for the past seven years on the basis of inter-State treaties has fully demonstrated the effectiveness of regional interaction in this most important area of economic development. The regular exchange of experience and the harmonization of the countries' legislative frameworks have created considerable synergies, in which the limited technical and professional resources of the antimonopoly authorities of the Commonwealth countries have been used to the maximum effect to set in place an environment conducive to competition.

Competition-related issues are particularly topical at the current time in the context of the globalization of economic development and the growth of restrictive business practices.

The competition policy implemented within the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States takes due account of the development trends of the world economy and of world economic relations. The continuing liberalization of foreign trade and investment systems under way in many countries, including those of the Commonwealth, is an important factor in heightening competition at the international level. In these conditions, the antimonopoly authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States advocate strengthened international cooperation in monitoring the restrictive business practices of companies, including multinational corporations, so as to ensure the effective development of economic links and to eliminate artificial barriers to market access.

In the light of the foregoing, the participants in the meeting recommend:

1. Taking due account of the process of integrating of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States into the international economic system, which is predicated, in particular, on improving the antimonopoly regulations of these countries, bringing them into line with international principles and norms, and highly commending the work of UNCTAD, as a body of global standing, in promoting international cooperation in this area, the participants at the meeting **express their support for the further strengthening of the role of UNCTAD in international cooperation in the area of competition.**

2. For the countries of the Commonwealth to be integrated into the world economy, efforts must be made to improve the economic regulations in these countries and to bring them

into line with international principles and norms, making increased use of the experience of countries with long traditions of antimonopoly regulation. To this end, it is essential **to expand the technical assistance afforded to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States by UNCTAD, as an organization with a wealth of experience in the area of international cooperation in matters of antimonopoly policy.** The expanded contribution of UNCTAD to the promotion of regional cooperation of the Commonwealth countries in the area of competition could take the form, *inter alia*, of its participation in preparing amendments to legislative instruments and in drafting model guidelines.

3. The participants in the meeting also **support the further expansion of the research work conducted by UNCTAD into competition.**

In particular, it would be useful to conduct research into the problem of exercising antimonopoly control over the concentration of economic activity in the countries of the Commonwealth, into the status and functions of the antimonopoly authorities of the Commonwealth and into the interaction between foreign trade policies and antimonopoly policies.

4. Efforts should also be made **to expand the role of UNCTAD in educational measures and in the advocation of competition.** In particular, UNCTAD should render assistance to the countries of the Commonwealth in strengthening the status and enhancing the image of their antimonopoly authorities, in developing training programmes relating to competition and the protection of consumers' rights, in the compilation and publication of appropriate training materials and in ensuring the greater transparency of antimonopoly policies for entrepreneurs and the general public.